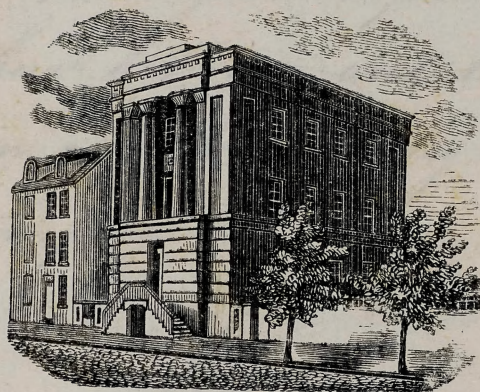


AN ESSAY ON

The Principal Adjuvants of Homeopathy.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine

On the Twentieth day of January, Eighteen Hundred and
Fifty-Eight

By Thomas Shearer
Of Pennsylvania

We propose in this essay to discuss very briefly, the virtues of Water and Magneto-Electricity as adjuvants of Homeopathy; to consider their claims to be regarded as curative agents; the general principles which govern their action; and the peculiar diseases in which they may be beneficially employed.

Water.

"And Naaman (the leper) came with his horses, and with his chariot, and stood at the door of (the prophet) Elisha.

And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean."

II KINGS. V. 9, 10.

"CLEANLINESS is next to GODLINESS."

Everywhere within reach, and presented by nature in the greatest purity and profusion. Cold Water was probably the first remedy which unsophisticated Man opposed to the injuries, and ailments, to which his physical frame was liable. To wash his wounds in the limpid stream, to allay the pain, and to abate the heat of bruises and inflammations, by immersion in its cold medium, would be the dictate of the earliest experience, and the first essay in the art of healing; for ages, perhaps, his only resource.

The progress of civilization, doubtless, led to its disuse; because, it is in the nature of refinement and luxury, to engender repugnance to what is simple and natural; and, in proportion as the progress of Science and the extension of Commerce opened up the riches of the three Kingdoms

of nature, developing the resources of medicine, and
 creating artificial wants, simple water fell
 into discredit - Its simplicity, is we
 believe the great barrier to its general adoption;
 the spirit displayed by Naaman the leper
 is witnessed every day - showing that the
 human mind has changed but little
 during a period of between two and three
 thousand years. We are informed that
 when the means of cure were made known
 to the leper; "he was wroth, and went
 away", and said: Behold, I thought, He
 will surely come out to me, and stand,
 and call on the name of the Lord, his God,
 and strike his hand over the place, and
 recover the leper." At this juncture
 the servant of Naaman, who seems
 to have possessed much more common

sense than his Master, came near and
spoke unto him, saying: My father, if
the prophet had bid thee do some great
thing, wouldest thou not have done it?
How much, rather then, when he saith,
"Wash, and be clean".

But if cold water be a therapeutical agent
so active, so salutary, so extensively applicable,
and so easily managed, as is alleged; then
it becomes an inquiry of the highest practical
importance, to determine accurately its doses
of administration, its modes of action, and the
conditions of the system which demand, or
forbid its use. For a remedy that, if
properly employed, is powerful to benefit,
must, if mal-administered be equally
powerful to injure. Little those of every other
remedy, the virtues which water unquestionably

possesses, depend on its being used in the proper way,
in the proper case, and at the proper time.
 Before being able to establish sound therapeutic-
 al principles, for the safe and scientific em-
 ployment of water, as an adjuvant in the
 treatment of diseases, its physiological and
 pathological effects must first be ascertained—
 the laws of the operation of cold on the living
 organism attempted, at least, to be deduced;
 and those morbid conditions of the body then
 determined, which indicate or contra-indicate
 its aid. This knowledge can alone enable
 us to employ with intelligence and success,
 the varied powers of water, to appreciate
 its diversified grades of action, and to
 multiply our curative resources.

1st Physiological & Pathological effects
 of the Cold Bath.

In the outset of this inquiry, it is necessary to premise, that hot and cold are merely relative terms. Individual susceptibility, or sensation, is the only true physiological criterion of hot or cold. The gradations of the thermometer are false guides.

The distinction of cold, cool, tepid, warm, hot, as applied to baths, afford no accurate data for the calculation of their effects; what is cold for one person, is tepid for another, or for the same person under altered circumstances of bodily temperature or temperament; what is hot for one, is only tepid for another.

We now enquire into the effects of water, at that temperature that produces the absolute sensation of cold, or what is usually understood by shock. The sudden application of this degree of cold to the surface of the body

determines an instantaneous change - a vivid impression on the nervous centres: probably the most powerful and momentarily-perturbative physical sensation that can be experienced; superficial heat is abstracted: the capillary vessels, glandular orifices, and minute arteries and veins of the surface are constricted, and exhalation is suspended. If the immersion be but momentary, the blood is not driven into the interior organs, and no accumulation or congestion takes place: the constriction of the superficial vessels is shared by those deeper seated. But if the bath be prolonged for a few minutes, the blood is repelled from the surface, and accumulates in the larger internal vessels; the skin shrinks and becomes pale. The results of these changes effected in the system, ^{are} ~~are~~ a

Keen sensation of cold, shivering, trembling of the limbs; uneasy weight of the chest; difficult, incomplete, and gasping respiration; the pulse is diminished in frequency and force; and the temperature of the body is reduced a few degrees. Up to this point all the organic functions are temporarily depressed; the duration and intensity of this depression are in relation to the severity of the cold, and prolongation of the contact, the power of generating animal heat. The Constitution, predisposition, temperament, and habits of the individual^{id}.

This first series of phenomena is now succeeded by those of Reaction; the shock and unpleasant sensation subside by degrees, and give place to others of an agreeable nature. A general glow of heat which pervades the whole frame; the blood returns to the surface;

The skin reddens and dilates; the circulation is
 more energetic; respiration is easy; the animal temper-
 ature elevated; the exhalation free; increased
 nervous power is elaborated; every organic tissue
 shares the impression; the entire system becomes
 preternaturally excited; all the functions are
 exalted; the whole body is buoyant with recruited
 energies; and the mind and spirits partake of
 the general exhilaration. This energetic
 reaction takes place in the water, only in
 the case of the more vigorous subjects, and when
 muscular exercise is used; in the feeble,
 it takes place only after a very transitory
 contact. In all cases, if the immersion
 be unduly prolonged, the feeling of warmth
 and vigor more slowly or rapidly decreases;
 chattering of the teeth, convulsion, trembling
 numbness of the extremities, languor, & exhaustion
 ensue;

secretion is suspended; the pulse flags; the features sharpen; the eyes sink; the nose & chest-bones point; the fingers and toes become bloodless and shrunken; painful constriction of the head and chest occur; the senses fail; the mind is stupefied; delirium ^{or} ~~and~~ convulsions ensue; the limbs become rigid; and the individual sinks into the sleep of death, unless relief be at hand.

The intensity of these phenomena, and the struggles of the circulation to counteract an influence, which rapidly exhausts the vital principle, are in proportion to the mental and physical energies of the subject, the severity of the cold, and the duration of the contact.

In patients rescued from this state, and in those, wherein the prolonged cold stage of ague, or the collapse of Cholera, has produced severe internal congestions, the reaction, when

it supervenes, is proportionably intense, is morbid, is a veritable fever. Individuals, who habituate themselves to the use of the Cold bath, by degrees, are obliged to increase the length of the immersion, or the severity of the cold, before reaction ensues. But when it does occur, it is stronger and more permanent.

2^d Effects of the Tepid or Warm Bath.

Water of the temperature of 86° to 96° is sufficiently warm, to produce a comfortable sensation of warmth on the surface. Vapor may be higher. The best description of the effects of this bath, is conveyed to the mind, by saying that it is a general fomentation or poultice: what a local poultice is to a fretted sore, or to a bruised or broken limb, this is to the entire system. Its effects are in relation to the heat of the body placed in it; when ~~the heat is excessive~~

the heat is excessive, it soothes and lowers temperature, without much, if any, subsequent reaction.

It carries off the heat faster than it is produced in weak or diseased bodies. When prolonged in such persons, it reduces the vital powers to the lowest ebb. Its soothing luxury, is preeminently appreciated by the wearied body, or fatigued mind. The pulse and respiration^{is} are gradually quickened at first; yet by and by the effect is pleasingly sedative. The

agreeable warmth diffused over the surface, gradually penetrates to the interior: the skin softens and relaxes; its fluids expand; the superficial capillaries are excited to increased action: exhalation and absorption are augmented; the blood is determined to the surface from the internal parts; congestions are relieved; the circulation is equalized in

the central and extreme parts: the frequency and fulness of the pulse are subdued; the action of the heart is calm; nervous irritation is soothed; the whole system is refreshed, relaxed, and expanded; fatigue is removed; care and trouble are chased away, and the individual feels disposed for, or falls into, a placid sleep.

In proportion as the temperature of the bath is increased above the due point of calm and comfort, it becomes an exciting and disturbing agent. The skin becomes red, swollen, and stimulated; the heart and carotid arteries beat with violence; the face is surged; the eyes injected; the respiration is frequent and difficult: the copious flow of perspiration affords some relief; but if the individual be at all disposed to cerebral congestion, he may have an apoplectic fit; longer endurance of the bath becomes impossible.

On coming out the individual feels faint and exhausted; he can with difficulty stand; there is violent beating of the Carotid arteries, and noise in the ears; the pulse remains excited for some hours afterwards: and the sweat flows abundantly.

3. Partial Baths. Water applied only to parts of the body, as half baths, sitz baths &c produce the same effects on the respective parts of the body, as the general baths do on the entire surface; are used with the same objects; and are besides, specially calculated to exercise a derivative or counter-stimulant action.

The Douche - The effects of cold water upon the body are modified by its falling from a height, and in an unbroken column, as by the mode in question. To the ordinary effects

of cold water, it adds an extra element of power,
 namely, the weight and momentum of the stream.
 The effect of this is a forcible compression
 of the capillary vessels, and superficial tissues of
 the parts whereon it plays. The continuous
 change of the water applied, makes it a powerful
 abstractor of heat. If taken during a short
 period of time, it induces a very energetic reaction.
 When unduly continued, its intensely refrigerant,
 and disturbing power makes it a morbid agent,
 difficult to cope with. But under its
 proper use, long standing tumors are rapidly
 absorbed, muscular contractions give way;
 stiff and useless joints (where there is no anchy-
 losis) recover; and all the superficial tissues
 and muscles acquire increased bulk & firmness:
 new energy seems communicated to the whole
 internal organs; and an exhilaration of animal spirits is
 felt.

Having thus briefly shown the effects of the different baths on the human organism: having given as it were a short "proving" of water at different temperatures, and its various modes of application, we now proceed to answer a question which is frequently asked, viz; Is Water treatment compatible with Homeopathy? Can it be made a useful adjuvant? And first, is it compatible? It is unnecessary to state, that in order to compatibility, it must be in harmony with the principle of Similia.

We do not mean to say that it must needs operate according to that law, but that no discord must exist — it must not act as an antidote to Homeopathic medication. If it does not do this, it may be used, if it gratifies or refreshes the patient, whether it expedites the cure or not. If water were medicinal, then

it would antidote some medicines. But water, although like air and exercise, it may be used to promote the restoration of health, is absolutely non medicinal. As it is neither food nor medicine, it does not task the digestive powers to assimilate, nor does it prevent the action of specifics by antidoting them. If therefore it can be employed in such a manner as not to interfere with medication; by the production of any great constitutional disturbance, it can be used in any disease, compatibly with any medicine. Now, when we consider the multitude of its possible applications, from gently sponging the face of the sick man, to destroying the life of the most vigorous with the "douche bath," no one can doubt, that water may be so applied as not to interfere with specific medication. But, can it be rendered a useful adjuvant?

We set it down as a fact which needs no argument, that water does cure. Unless we are disposed to treat the statistics of Hydropathic establishments, in the same ungenerous manner as the "old school" has treated ours, we must acknowledge that they cure inveterate cases of chronic disease. But still, if we can cure as well without it, as with it, - certainly we are wise to avoid the trouble of its application - we do not require it as an adjuvant. To this we would answer, that every physician encounters cases of acute disease, which in spite of his greatest exertions run on to a fatal termination. He finds also cases of chronic disease of no peculiar aggravation, which, after having defied Homoeopathic skill for years, finally quit neither cured nor relieved. In such cases, one is led to suspect, not that nature's resources are exhausted, but that some are untried.

21

We set it down as a fact which needs no argument, that water does cure. Unless we are disposed to treat the statistics of Hydropathic establishments, in the same ungenerous manner as the "old school" has treated ours, we must acknowledge that they cure inveterate cases of chronic disease. But still, if we can cure as well without it, as with it, - certainly we are wise to avoid the trouble of its application - we do not require it as an adjuvant. To this we would answer, that every physician encounters cases of acute disease, which in spite of his greatest exertions run on to a fatal termination. He finds also cases of chronic disease of no peculiar aggravation, which, after having defied Homoeopathic skill for years, finally quit neither cured nor relieved. In such cases, one is led to suspect, not that nature's resources are exhausted, but that some are untried.

21

A fear is sometimes expressed by Homeopaths, that an admission of the curative powers of water, may cause Homeopathy to be less highly esteemed - that it may strengthen a rival party - or that the use of water, as a therapeutical agent, by Homeopaths, may produce a confusion and mingling of systems resulting in a corruption of Homeopathy.

In regard to the first point, we cannot deny that water does cure - that it cures most inveterate and fatal chronic diseases, pronounced incurable by Hahnemann himself, who says with regard to those chronic diseases, which are "superinduced by the unskillful treatment of Allopathists, when they have attained a considerable height, it would seem as if no remedy could be devised or discovered for their cure". Now, conclusive evidence can be furnished, that these very diseases are curable by the use of ^{water alone.}

It is doubtful even, whether under the water treatment, chronic medicinal diseases, and those of an aggravated form, cannot be cured more readily than chronic constitutional disease. The drugs having taken up a substantial lodgement in the system, are constantly exerting a morbid influence. Medication may prove palliative, but does not expel them. It merely rouses the vital forces for a time; yet the enemy still lurks in the garison, ready to take advantage of the first moment of relaxation or fatigue. Now, if there are any means provided by the Giver of all good, whereby we can cure these horrible diseases, pronounced incurable by the great founder of philosophical medicine, a decision extensively verified by his followers—in God's name, in the name of afflicted humanity, let us joyfully seize, and gratefully use them.

And, let us not stand in dread of being taunted with having enlarged our views, with having learned something that we did not previously know. Let us rather with manly soul, rejoice that we are of those who can learn, that we are not yet petrifications, fitter to be displayed as curious relics in a Cabinet, than to be regarded as busy men, active in the great affairs of life. And, let us not fear that the Homeopathic principle will suffer by the acknowledgment and adoption of an additional method of cure.

It is one which, in no degree embarrasses our administration of medicine — one that in no manner encroaches upon the great law — one that causes no mixed and confused medication. It is one that involves no medication at all — one that harmonizes with Homeopathy as perfectly, as Gravitation with Chemical affinity.

As to the second point: It may strengthen a ~~rev~~
rival party. By our sacred allegiance to God
and man - by our obligations to venerate the one,
and love the other, we have no right to be par-
tisans - We hold the partisan to be false
to the best interests of man - we hold him
derelict in duty toward that God, who is
the Creator, not of party, but of man.

Party is but the extension of self, and egotism
is the ruling principle of the partisan. He
may be clear-eyed to his own interests, and
thus to the interests of his party, which is
but one remove from self, but he can never
have a clear eye for truth. He can never
achieve that greatness which is open to all -
whether their talents are few or many, whether
their minds are cultivated or uncultivated, the
transcendent moral greatness of a supreme and

heroic devotion to truth - truth which is of no party, but which is the divine messenger of good to all men of all parties. A happy day would it be for the world, and for the medical profession, if medical science were so complete in its parts, so perfect in its appointments, that we should have neither Homeopathsists nor Allopathists, but simply physicians.

As to the third point. there can be no mingling of systems. Homeopathy is the name of a principle, a well defined principle, which can be confounded with no other principle, either in theory or practice. The Homeopathic formula is too clear to be mistaken - it expresses simply that medicines cure diseases similar to those which they are capable of producing. Whether medicines can cure diseases dissimilar to those which they cause, whether all the medical

cures that have been effected since the world began, were an unconscious Homeopathy, is another question. Nor is any man either more or less, a Homeopath for sustaining the affirmative or negative of this question. It does not detract from the Chemists confidence in the principle of attraction, that he recognises, as operating on the same matter, at the same time, a principle of repulsion.

It is totally insignificant, so far as the merits and perpetuity of Homeopathy are concerned, how the water acts. It is sufficient for the Homeopathist to know that it does act, that it cures, and that it does not interfere with Homeopathic medication. Thus the application of the wet compress in diseases attended with marked local development, as for instance, swelling of the parotid or sub-maxillary glands, will accelerate the period of cure, accomplishing for the more localized what

the wet sheet does for the more general disease.

Nor is this at all unintelligible. It is well known that life depends on circulation, not merely on the circulation of the blood through the veins and arteries, but equally and more intimately on the passage of fluids into and out of the blood vessels, and through all the solids of the body. "The blood vessels merely convey the fluid matter to the different parts of the system, that it may leave the vessels and enter the tissue and circulate there outside of the vessels.

And this latter circulation is more fundamental to life than the former, since both vegetables and animals can, and do exist in a living state without the former, but none without the latter."

Now this interstitial circulation is greatly dependent on the state of the skin. If the skin ceases to circulate and transmit fluids, the interstitial circulation is disordered, and may be partially arrested in the

whole body, whether in the substance of the brain, kidneys, liver, or muscles. A moist state of the skin promotes the transmission of fluids through it, and consequently favors interstitial circulation in the whole system. By this means the vitality of the part is promoted, congestion and torpor are diminished, and the sensitiveness of the system to the medicine is vastly increased.

Thus, if Mercurius will cure inflamed parotid glands, it will accomplish it more speedily with the aid of the wet compress. And in all forms of sore throat, so called, whether inflammation of the fauces or larynx, the same remark holds good. In inflammation of the liver, one of the most obstinate we have to deal with, the wet compress ~~is~~ is indispensable -

In inflammation of the bowels resulting in dysentery, with all its distressing symptoms, the wet compress affords unspeakable relief.

The mode of its application is as simple as the result is grateful. It is only necessary to dip a towel in water, wring it out, fold it to the proper size, apply it to the part, and cover it carefully with a bandage of flannel, or oiled silk, so as entirely to exclude the air. When the compress becomes dry or disagreeably hot, let it be wet again. So efficient is this method, that a cold, which is in its effects chiefly confined to the throat, will frequently disappear more promptly under the influence of water alone, than under medication alone. "In bilious fevers, accompanied by great irritability of the system, the wet sheet exerts a magical influence - the moment the wet sheet begins to excite the skin, that moment the system begins to respond to the medicine; and it is surprising to the inexperienced in the use of water, to find how speedily the disease yields to this combined influence."

Every physician can and should avail himself of these simple means, which do not at all interfere with his medication, and which have just as much testimony in their favor as Homeopathy itself. No great skill is required - a little prudence - common sense, and a physiological knowledge suffice for capital to start on. And the physician has the satisfaction of knowing, that in his inexperienced efforts, he is risking nothing - since his medication goes on as usual, and his experiments are harmless. Let it be observed that the great aim is to maintain a moist skin. We do not propose this as the only use of water; but it is perhaps the principal one. It is by maintaining this state of the skin, in connection with free perspiration, that, in chronic diseases from drug poisoning, a cure is accomplished. As already stated, circulation

with its associated exchange of matter, is one, and a very important condition of life. The lodgment of drugs in the system, arrests the circulation, prevents the exchange, and, to this extent, impairs life. The protracted use of the wet sheet, at length extends the circulation to those parts, where, by mercury, or other drugs, it was partially or wholly suspended, causing the drugs by degrees to be taken up and expelled from the system. Motion is the indispensable condition of life. Arrest motion and you arrest life. Hence it is, that in those parts of the system, that, in their healthy state abound most in water, do, in general, and within certain limits, abound most in life, because, there, motion is most free. Thus much for water, as an adjutant of Homeopathy. we will next consider

Magneto-Electricity.

"It has long been my belief, that the Electric influ-
ence is the great principle by which the ALMIGHTY puts to-
gether and separates; and that it might be called, met-
aphorically speaking, THE RIGHT ARM OF GOD."

Crosse.

Few subjects have more frequently, or with greater
interest from time to time, attracted the notice of the
physician than the nature and applications of
Electricity, and its modifications to medicine and
physiology. Too frequently, however, has the
importance of this wonderful and ever-present
agent been overlooked, and its application
to medicine left to the empiric. Recent
researches have invested this matter with
the deepest interest, both to the physiologist,
the chemist, the physician, and the man of

general science, more particularly, when, from late investigations, it appears that we are constantly generating this agent, and that in the quantity of electric matter, man far exceeds the torpedo or the electric eel, and is only prevented from emitting a benumbing shock, whenever he extends his hand to greet his neighbor, from the absence of some special organ for increasing its tension. Our space will not permit us to enter into an exposition of the part which electricity plays in a physiological point of view; we must therefore content ourselves with a brief notice of its value as a therapeutical agent, and the diseases to which it is specially adapted. We would remark that Electricity has been by no means fairly treated; having either been exclusively referred to, when all other remedies had

failed - in fact, often, in the most hopeless cases;
or its administration has been carelessly ~~and~~
~~aimlessly~~ directed, without reference to the
manner, form, or mode of its application.
Conscientiously convinced that the agent in ques-
tion is a no less energetic than valuable
remedy, in the treatment of disease, we feel
anxious to press its claims upon the
attention of the practical physician.

In 1836 the authorities of Guy's Hospital
thought fit to set apart a room for the
administration of electricity. Clinical clerks
were appointed to record the cases, and the
whole was placed under the care of Dr.
Golding Bird, and remained in his hands
for eight years. In the case books of this
department of the Hospital, is recorded a
large mass of clinical experience on this subject,

and from these records we have selected such matters as appeared of the greatest interest, and of the highest practical importance. Several cases from other sources will also be detailed. We know that electricity, under all its modifications, is a most energetic agent in exciting contractions of muscular fibres.

Indeed, the irritable fibres of the muscles of a frog's leg are actually used as a positive test for the existence of an electric current.

This susceptibility to the stimulus of electricity is not limited to real muscular tissue, but is equally participated in, by those white contractile tissues, which by some physiologists are hardly regarded as belonging to the class of true muscles. We allude particularly to the muscular coats of arteries, intestines, and bronchial tubes, as well as the structure of the uterus.

Dr A. C. B. Williams has actually demonstrated the contractility of a bronchus under the influence of a current of electricity. The well-known experiment, in which the current of a single pair of plates passing from the mouth to the anus of an ox, recently killed, excited the peristaltic motion of the intestines and induced defecation, sufficiently proves the susceptibility of the muscular structure of the intestines to the stimulus of electricity. Indeed, says Dr Golding Bird, my attention has been repeatedly directed by patients, to the influence of this agent as a purgative. A gentleman who, some years ago was under my care for paraplegia, accidentally noticed, that the passage of a current from the electro-magnetic machine across the abdomen, in the direction of the transverse colon, almost always induced a desire to empty

the bowels, and he has ever since appealed to this remedy, when necessary to evacuate the bowels. He assures me it seldom fails.

In parturition, electricity has achieved its greatest triumphs. Few cases are more appalling than those of flooding during labor, none can occur, in which the patient's life is more immediately dependent upon the moral courage, promptitude, and skill of the accoucheur. Among other causes inducing this hemorrhage, an atonic state of the uterus is the most dangerous. In such cases, as well as in many forms of placenta praevia, where the blood is fast gushing from the uterus, and the patient's power is as rapidly sinking, a distinguished obstetric physician Dr. Rauford of Manchester, has advocated the employment of induced electro-magnetic currents to induce energetic

contraction of the uterus. He has further suggested its application for the purpose of originating uterine contractions de novo, in cases where it is important to induce premature labor, as well as in certain cases of menorrhagia in the unimpregnated state, where the uterus is found large, atonic and flaccid. Dr Radford applies the electro-magnetic machine, one of the conductors being passed over the abdomen, especially in the neighborhood of the fundus uteri, the other being introduced into the vagina so as to be brought into contact with the os uteri. This vaginal conductor is insulated by a covering of gutta serena, and terminates in a ball of silver, by which the electric current is conveyed to the uterus. This practice has received the sanction of Dr Lenoir of the Royal College of Physicians, whose high obstetric experience invests his opinion with great weight.

This gentleman has availed himself of the use of the electric current, in cases where a long of the uterus existed, and, where from threatening exhaustion, independent of danger of hemorrhage, immediate delivery was important. The following case will illustrate that point.

"I was requested to see M. C. Oct. 39. in her sixteenth confinement, June 6,th 1845

"On my arrival at the house, I learned that her previous labors had been tolerably good; with two or three exceptions, when they had been considerably protracted from want of pains; she stated that her health had always been delicate, and for the last few weeks she had had a troublesome cough, attended with copious expectoration, emaciation, and occasional night sweats; symptoms that induced me to suspect she had phthisis, although, subsequently this diagnosis was not confirmed by a physical examination of the chest.

"On the Sunday evening (5 days) prior to my visiting her, she was attacked with the premonitory symptoms of labor, soon succeeded by regular and frequent pains, which, on the following morning, abated, but never entirely left her, until the Wednesday night, when the liquor Amnii was discharged.

"At 1 A.M. on Friday, the pains returned with considerable vigor, but did not last above an hour, and at 6 A.M. they were again renewed for a short time. It was about four hours after this period that I found Dr T. a medical practitioner in the neighborhood, with the patient. He had administered a dose of the "tincture of ergot," but this was only followed by a few slight and ineffectual pains.

"Having ascertained by an examination per Vaginam, that there was no obstacle to the termination of the case, but a want of contraction of the uterus,

and, believing it desirable that no time should be lost, as alarming symptoms of exhaustion were now manifested, I resolved on a trial of electricity.

"I was gratified in finding, after a few applications of the remedy externally and obliquely, across the anterior surface of the uterus, alternately changing the position of the conducting wires, that a very decided effect was produced. Regular, strong and frequent pains came on, and, in the course of a quarter of an hour, a living male child and placenta were expelled, attended with the least degree of hemorrhage I ever witnessed.

The uterus was immediately firmly and permanently contracted, and with the exception of a slight soreness across the abdomen, the patient expressed herself as feeling quite comfortable. She recovered but slowly, on account of the general debility induced by the affection of the chest, but there was not a single bad symptom

connected with the uterus subsequently developed.

Lingering labor with atony of the uterus (Case 2)

"In this case labor was protracted for nearly thirty hours: pelvis capacious and well-formed. Uterine action extremely feeble, with long intervals. When I first saw her, the patient had been fainting for two hours, within short periods; on inquiry I ascertained that there had been no pains for nearly three hours. Examination; Os quite obliterated, perfectly well formed pelvis. Fœtal heart audible. Electro-magnetic current applied in the usual manner; on first application, the patient complains of slight bearing down pains. In five minutes applied again; now the pains are decided and energetic. After forty minutes the fœtus is expelled, alive and strong. The current having been passed every five minutes. In this case, ergot had been administered freely previous

to my having seen the patient. Convalesced favorably.

Case 3. Hemorrhage in Miscarriage without uterine action

Mrs H. has had passive hemorrhage to a very considerable amount during three days, caused by fright in consequence of one of her carriage horses having become restive whilst driving in the neighborhood of the city. I was requested to see her at 11

O'clock P.M.; found she had arrived at the third month of pregnancy. Examination.

Os uteri rigid and unyielding, no pain whatever, nor has there been any; a portion of placenta can be felt protruding. There is a constant drain. Ordered Acon. Plumb. copious cold applications, to take small portions of ice frequently. - 6 O'clock A.M. loss still the same.

Take five grain doses of Gallic acid every three hours. - 2 O'clock P.M. no abatement.

Take ergot every twenty minutes for one hour.
No improvement. It now became seriously
important to check the loss by some means.

I therefore sent for my apparatus, and applied
the current as usual. In sixty eight minutes
the foetus &c was expelled; pain was not
perceptibly induced for twenty eight minutes.
Contraction then came on forcibly and regular-
ly. Convalescent quickly.

Case 4.th Communicated by Dr Dempsey, London
Mrs H. had been attended by me in March 1847
in conjunction with an eminent Obstetrician,
when craniotomy was found necessary from
pelvic malformation, and accordingly perform-
ed. About twelve months afterwards, I was
engaged to attend the same lady, then in
her fifth month of pregnancy. Having a
great objection to craniotomy, I advised

premature labor to be induced at the seventh month. Accordingly at this period I punctured the membranes, waiting forty eight hours to see what effect this would produce. At the end of this time, no appearance whatever of labor.

The apparatus was then used thus:—

For five minutes a gentle current was passed as described already; no effect; ten minutes elapse. Current passed again for five minutes, still no effect; another ten minutes interval. A third application for five minutes.

Patient now complains of a slight grinding pain, quickly passing off. I now determined to wait half an hour to ascertain what effect the impetus given to the uterus would produce, in keeping up its action.

No pain or contraction ensued. For forty

minutes the current was regularly transmitted for five minutes, at a time, with intervals of ten minutes; the pains now became steady and regular. On this being accomplished the action of the Machine was discontinued.

I sat by this patient eight hours, regularly noting by my watch, each pain and its duration.

The pains regularly recurred within 20 seconds of the ten minutes, lasting for 25 seconds, until the head rested on the perineum, then eight minutes, six, four, two, one, and half a minute, the last expelling the head.

This and the previous case ought to set at rest the question as to the power of electro-magnetic currents to induce uterine contractions de novo; indeed, reasoning a priori we could expect nothing else. If electric influence can produce contraction of fibres in one series

of muscles, it would be only fair to infer, that the same power will produce the same effect in a similarly organised structure.

The conclusions arrived at by those who have had opportunities of observation in obstetrical practice are these:—

- 1.st The current from an electro magnetic apparatus can intensify already existing uterine action.
- 2.^d It is capable of inducing uterine action *de novo*, when the organ is predisposed to such action, either from congestion, a peculiar nervous condition, or the mechanical action of its contents.
- 3.^d That it is necessary to keep up the stimulus, for a certain period; (imitating as far as possible nature's own efforts, by applications at regular intervals), to insure the permanent action of the uterine fibres.
- 4.th That no injurious effects usually follow its application.

We now proceed to notice some other diseases
to which Magneto-electricity is applicable, and
in which it has been used with great success.

1st Paralysis from Lead.

In the Hospital records, we find notes
have been preserved of eleven cases.

Of these, 5 were cured, 4, improved and
2 not relieved. No medication whatever
was employed in these cases.

2^d Rheumatic paralysis

Notes of 10 cases have been preserved

Of these, the youngest was 15, the oldest 50

Of these, 5 were paraplegic limited to both legs.

1 " " " hands.

3 " " right arm

1 " " right leg.

Of these, 5 were cured

" 3 " relieved

" 2 " unrelieved

If so much was effected by electricity alone, in different forms of paralysis, how much more might reasonably have been expected, had it been combined with proper Homeopathic treatment.

Chorea

Notes of 37 cases have been preserved.

Of these, 37. there were 17 males, 20 females.

26 under 16 years of age; 11 above 16 years.

Of these, in 25 the movements were universal

"	5	limited to the right side
"	1	left "
"	2	both arms
"	1	right arm
"	1	left arm
"	1	sternocleid muscles
"	1	pterygoid muscles

37

The causes of the Chorea were various;

17 were traced to terror,

3 " " Amenorrhoea,

3 " " intestinal irritation,

2 " " intense cold,

1 " " rheumatic fever,

1 " " intense grief,

1 " " Congenital,

1 " " mechanical injury,

4 " " no apparent cause,

4 " " Complicated with epilepsy,

37

Of these, 30 were completely cured,

" 5 " relieved,

" 1 refused to continue treatment,

" 1 uncured. This was

a man 61 years old; where there
was a suspicion of spinal mischief.

Electricity has been repeatedly looked to, as an important agent in stimulating the activity of secreting organs. We have indisputable evidence of the successful application of the electro-magnetic current, in inducing secretion from the uterus in cases of Amenorrhoea. 24 cases reported;

The youngest 15; the oldest, 25 years of age, all unmarried.

Of these, 4 were chlorotic;

" 6 " but slightly so;

" 12 " not all so;

" 2 " Complicated with hysteria

Of these, all were cured except the four chlorotic girls.

In electricity, we possess the only really direct emmenagogue; it has never been known to fail in exciting menstruation.

where the uterus was capable of performing this function. Disappointment will, however most certainly result, if we have recourse to electricity merely, because a girl does not menstruate.

We must never lose sight of the fact, that, after all, a large majority of cases of amenorrhoea depend upon an anaemic condition; and the patient does not menstruate, because she has no blood to spare. In such cases, the first great indication will be to restore the general health, and then, and not before, think of stimulating the uterus.

In diseases of the male sexual organs resulting from excess of venery, and in that dreadful disease, Spermatorrhoea Electricity has proved to be a remedial agent, of the very highest order, and in conjunction with the sitz bath, is

capable of curing, almost any curable case without a single particle of medicine - though we are aware, that a properly selected medicine wonderfully facilitates the cure.

There is yet another application of electricity as a direct stimulant, which has often been highly beneficial - we allude to cases of poisoning by opium; and of drowning.

In opium poisoning, after relieving the stomach as much as possible; the great peril besetting the patient, is the fatal indulgence of sleep. Every ingenuity has been often used to keep the patients awake until the narcotic has passed off.

Recently the painful stimulus of the alternating current of the electro-magnetic machine has been employed with marked success.

Dr Martin Barry, first, had recourse to

This remedy in the case of an infant patient,
at the Edinburgh Maternity Hospital.
The child, which was nine months old
was dosed to sleep with twenty five minims
of laudanum; it appeared when Dr. Barry
saw it, to be in a state of hopeless nar-
cotism. By the application of the current
from the electro-magnetic machine, the
little patient was kept at least, partially
awake for nearly five hours, when the
respiration became calmer, and the pupils
dilated; the child eventually did well.
A great many cases of a similar character
might be narrated.

In cases of drowning, where life is
apparently extinct, the electro-magnetic
current offers greater hope of resuscitation
than any other means, with which we

are at present acquainted. One of the conductors should be applied to the neck, whilst the other is passed along the margins of the ribs from the scrobiculus cordis, so as to influence the diaphragm, and perhaps the ganglionic nerves. Several cases are recorded, in which this remedy was successful in restoring animation.

We have thus briefly noticed some of the diseases in which Magneto-electricity may be advantageously employed. Did our space, and your patience permit, many more might be pointed out.

We trust, however, that enough has been said to convince the most sceptical that Water, and Electricity when judiciously employed are curative agents of no mean value, and as

adjuvants of Homeopathy: they are
entitled to rank in the highest place.